Celebration and commitment

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
CELEBRATION AND COMMITMENT
Lesson for August 28, 1983
Bible Study Passages: Esther 2:7; 4:13-16; 8:3-8
INTRODUCTION

The term celebration is generally a foreign one in some religious traditions. In fact, most of us grew up in a church hearing words like work, duty, obligations, responsibility, service, servant, and debt. In my own tradition, I never remember hearing the word celebration in the context of worship. We never "celebrated" communion, we simply tacked it onto the end of a worship service as a sort of after-thought.

Celebrations are important events in the lives of people. We celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and graduations. But we do not always view life or worship as a celebration. In worship we are praising Him who showers his people with abundant graces. If life is a gift from God, then it stands to reason that life must be celebrated in a spirit of gratitude.

Our relationship to God and Christ is something to celebrate. This week's lesson has to do something with a celebration feast of the Jews. The Feast of Purim reflects the Hebrew commemoration of the deliverance of exiled Jews through the bravery of one women named Esther.

Esther Becomes Queen (Esther 2:7)

Esther must have had the "cover girl" look, because she was sought after by the King of Persia. In the beauty pageant she ranked the highest among all contestants, probably because of her conduct of humility.

Esther was actually a replacement for Queen Vashte who refused to entertain some of the king's guests. She did not want to be used by the king as a display to satisfy the lustful tastes of the palace guests. She was defrocked of her position and title as queen, which then a new replacement had to be found.

Esther's cousin hears of the job opening and told her to apply. He knew that her rare beauty would win her an instant appearing before the king.

A Plot To Kill The Jews (Esther 4:13-16)

The king (Ahaseurus) had a righthand man by the name of Haman. He enjoyed the royal favors paid to those in high places. When Esther's cousin Mordecai refused to bow before him,Harman decided upon corporal punishment for all the Jews in that area. Haman; used his position to lure the king to support his notion to slaughter the Jews. When Mordecai learned of this dastardly plan he went into mourning. Esther, now queen, heard of her cousin's mourning and sought to find out why. Mordecai impressed upon Esther the urgency to turn aside the king's support of the plan to do away with the Jews. When Mordecai reminded her that she, too, was Jewish,she made a gallant effort to get a hearing before the king.

Mordecai's faith in God was a reassuring source of hope for him and his Jewish kinsmen. No doubt his effort to get Esther into the royal palace was based upon divine conviction and upon his foresight and compassion for his people.

Esther Pleads For Her People (Esther 8:3-8)

Esther's position as a queen did not guarantee her an open-ended entree' into the king's presence. She worked diplomatically by inviting the king and Haman to a banquet. She courted their favor with a second banquet in order to court their favor and to get a hearing before the king.

Through her efforts and bravery Esther managed to get the king to cancel Haman's edict to kill all Jews. When the king heard of Haman's edict to destroy the Jews he had him hung upon the gallows he had made for Mordecai. The end result was that Mordecai was moved up to take the place occupied by Haman.

Thanks to Esther and Mordecai the exiled Jews were spared.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Chamaign, Illinois (WLYP)

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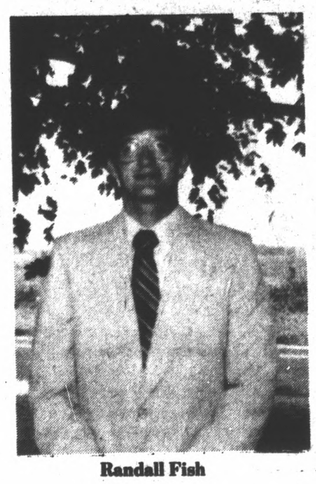
Concert set

The Golden Trumpeteers will be in concert at Canaan Baptist Church in Appomattox on Sunday, Aug. 28 at 3 p.m.



Randall Fish

Fish now at local church

Mr. Randall Fish, a 1982 graduate of Hyles-Anderson College in Crown Point, Indiana has just assumed his duties at the Bible Baptist Church in Appomattox.

He holds a bachelor of science degree in Christian Education and is currently working part time on a masters of education degree at Liberty Baptist College. His wife, Deborah, is also attending Liberty Baptist College.

"Bible Baptist Church has a desire to reach youth in Appomattox County for Christ. We are reaching out to a lost world.", said pastor, the Rev. Robert E. Lee.

Galilee

The Lord is my light and my salvation. The presence of the Lord was clearly with us at Galilee this past Sunday. Pastor Davis delivered an inspiring message on the subject of "A True Friend."

To complement the message the Youth Services Singers were at their best. Their selections were filled with the spirit and members of the audience gave witness to soul-touching selections. We were blessed to have visitors with us.

We wish to thank all homecomers and friends who supported our annual revival. Special thanks go out to each local choir that sang during the week. The Lord further blessed us with financial prosperity.

We are sorry to hear of the hospitalizaiton of Mrs. Mary Hudson, Mrs. Dean Kelso, Miss Addie Petty and Mr. Samuel Cain. We wish for them a speedy return home. Let us continue in prayer for the peoples of the world and all conditions of mankind.

The Youth Services Singers took an active part in the revival at Mt. Shiloh.

A special senior choir rehearsal will take place this coming Saturday at 5 a.m. Please attend.

The Senior Choir will sing at Promise Land on Wednesday night of their revival.

To discover one of God's great promises to you read John 15:16.

In conclusion, let us think in terms of love. Read what Paul wrote about the quality of love in the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians. This knowledge could drastically change our lives.

Deaths

Joseph Bailey

Joseph Bailey of Baltimore, Maryland died on Aug. 15 in Baltimore. He accepted Christ and was baptized and became a member of Zion Baptist Church, Pamplin. He was a faithful and devoted member until his health failed. He was married to the late Mary Elizabeth Edwards Bailey. To this union six children were born. He leaves to cherish his memory four daughters, Mrs. Elnora Wooldridge of Pamplin, Mrs. Ethel Goldman of Cullen, Mrs. Anna Davis of Baltimore, Maryland, Mrs. Josephine Johnson of Seaside, California; one son, Edward Bailey of Pamplin. A son, John Bailey is deceased. He leaves 28 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, two daughters-in-law, one sister-in-law, one brother-in-law and a host of relatives and friends.

A funeral service was conducted at the Zion Baptist Church on Aug. 20. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Alice Woody Bayes

GLADSTONE - Alice Woody Bayes, 66, of Appomattox, died Tuesday evening, Aug. 16, at Guggenheimer Hospital.

Born in Nelson County, she was a daughter of the late John L. and Ora Litchford Woody. She was a member of Gladstone Baptist Church and was retired from the Gladstone YMCA.

She is survived by one son, Terry Len Bayes, Hurt; one sister, Mrs. Virginia Musick, Norfolk; one grandson, Jeffery Guy Bayes, Hurt, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Friday at the Woody family cemetery by the Rev. Richard Baber.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Russell W. Brown

Russell W. Brown, of Spout Spring, died on August 23 at the Medical Care Center in Lynchburg. He was the son of the late Mittie Cheatham Brown and William Washington Brown. His wife was the late Mary Elizabeth Brown.

He is survived by three sisters, Etta B. Stanley, Mrs. Betty Williams, and Mrs. Eleanor Wilkes, all of Lynchburg; two brothers, Tom M. Brown of Nathalie and David P. Brown, of Portsmouth. He was a veteran of World War II and a retired employee of Barsteel, Inc. of Detroit, Michigan.

A funeral service will be held today (Thursday) at 1 p.m. at Whitten Park Avenue Chapel, Lynchburg.

Burial will be in Spout Spring Baptist Church cemetery.

Floyd Bertron [Mutt] Farrar, Sr.

Floyd Betron (Mutt) Farrar Sr. of Route 1, Gladstone, died Saturday morning, August 20, in Lynchburg General Hospital.

Born in Albemarle County, he was a son of the late Hezzikiah Farrar and Mattie Bailey Farrar. He was a member of Mineral Springs Baptist Church and was a machinist with the Lynn Manufacturing Company in Lynchburg.

He is survived by his wife, Ethel Mae Childress Farrar; two sons, Charles E. Farrar, Lynchburg, and Kenneth W. Farrar, Lovingston; one brother, Russell E. Farrar, Amherst; three sisters, Mrs. Mildred Peregoy, Amherst, and Mrs, Iris Peters and Mrs. Celia Isaac, both of Pennsylvania, and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at 2 p.m. from Mineral Springs Baptist Church, with interment in Amherst Cemetery.

Driskill Funeral Chapel, Amherst, was in charge of arrangements.

Gary Debert Merchant

Gary Delbert Merchant, 45, of Fincastle, formerly of Amelia County, died on Sunday, August 14.

Surviving are his wife, Jo Ann Beamer Merchant; a daughter, Cheryl Merchant and a son, Gary Jason Merchant, both of the home; his mother, Mrs. Lois Merchant; four brothers, Romy Merchant of Powhatan, Truman Merchant of Swanton, VT, Wayne Merchant of Waynesboro, and Garnet Merchant of Beulah, Colo.; three sisters, Mrs. Marilyn Onorati of Amelia, Mrs. Audrey Jones of Powhatan, and Mrs. Gazelle Wilkes of Falls River, Mass.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, Aug. 16 at 11 a.m. from Radar Funeral Home, Troutville. Interment was in the Mt. Moriah Cemetery.

Radar Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Irene Woody O'Brien

Irene Woody O'Brien, of Route 1, Gladstone, died Friday, August 19, in Lynchburg General Hospital.

Born in Nelson County, she was a daughter of the late William Carrington Woody and Mollie Woody Woody. She was a member of St. James United Methodist Church.

She is survived by two sons, Joseph D. O'Brien, Amherst, and David W. O'Brien of Vero Beach, Fla.; four stepsons, Ernest O'Brien, Willie H. O'Brien, Aubrey W. O'Brien, and Malcolm L. O'Brien, all of Gladstone; three stepdaughters, Mrs. Odell Gowen, Lynchburg, and Mrs. Alma Watts and Mrs. Susie Horsley, both of Gladstone; seven sisters, Lucy McCormick, Mrs. Lillie McCormick, and Mrs. Maude Casev, all of Gladstone,Mrs. Mary Hunter, Roanoke, and Mrs. Evelyn McCormick, Mrs. Virginia Bryant, and Mrs. Helen Layne, all of Appomattox, and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 4 p.m. from Driskill Funeral Chapel in Amherst, with interment in Amherst Cemetery.

Driskill Funeral Chapel, Amherst, was in charge of arrangements.

Carrie Williams Tolley

Carrie Williams Tolley, 81, of Route 1, Pamplin, died Wednesday afternoon at a Richmond hospital. She was the widow of Robert Lewis Tollev.

She was the daughter of the late Theopholus Williams and Josephine Woodson Williams. She was a member of Piney Ridge United Methodist Church.

She is survived by five daughters, Elsie T. Edwards, Lois T. Bushey and Nancy T. Millner, all of Richmond, Eva T. Guill of Appomattox and Patsy T. Chenault of Prospect; two sons, Harold R. Tolley of Appomattox and Robert Earl Tolley of Pamplin; 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; four sisters, Ethel Dameron and Maude Sanderson, both of Lynchburg, Eva Carwile of Brookneal and Jessie Fletcher of Virginia Beach, and one brother, Henry Williams of West Virginia.

A funeral service was conducted at 3 p.m. Friday at Piney Ridge United Methodist Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Robinson Funeral Home, Appomattox, was in charge of arrangements.

Zion Baptist news

A large crowd attended the funeral of Joseph Bailey Saturday at Zion Baptist. Sympathy is extended to the family in the loss of their loved one.

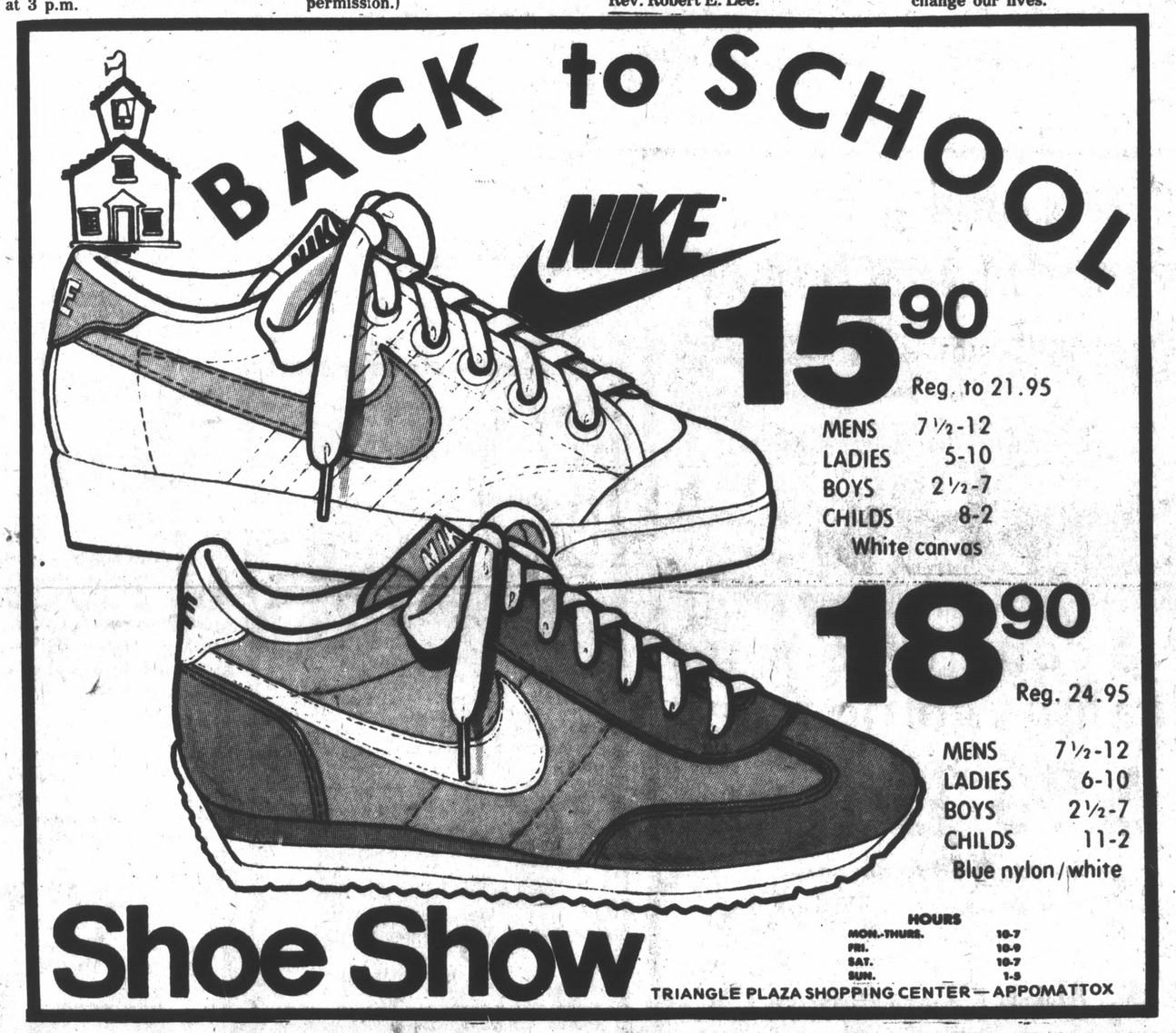
Sunday was a busy day at Zion Baptist. Sunday School was held at 9:30, a baptising service was held at 10, and regular preaching, with the Rev. Charles Lewis in charge, began at 11 a.m.

The Senior Usher's Board will meet Sunday at 11 a.m.

A large crowd attended the special singing program at Zion Baptist recently. Four different musical groups performed, for the benefit of Mrs. Barbara Wesley. Jesse Lee Walker and C. D. Walker were sponsors. Thanks go to those who made donations for Mrs. Wesley.

The Ladies' Aid Group will meet the first Saturday in September at 4 p.m. The Deaconesses' Board will meet at 3 p.m. the same day.

Our sick are improving.



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